

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. - 39. *(Canceled)*

40. *(Currently Amended)* A method for providing services over at least one network comprising the steps of:

providing a network service over the network;

permitting at least one service group to access a network server via the network service, the service group including a plurality of members;

registering each of the plurality of members and their provided services on the server;

storing services information for each of the provided services on the server together with its associated member including capability data, if any, for the associated member, and each of the members of the service group capable of being a service provider member and a service requestor member;

allowing each requestor member to request services for a fee from a provider member of the service group by submitting to the network service a service request including screening criteria comprising a requested service and at least one other criterion, wherein the requested service is partially outside of a submitting requestor's area of expertise but which is required to fulfill a non-member customer's order, and wherein the at least one other criterion was provided by the non-member customer in a customer service request;

comparing the screening criteria with the services information and capability data stored on the server;

identifying one or more matching providers whose services information and capability data most closely satisfies the screening criteria, wherein a combined collaboration between the submitting requestor and the one or more matching providers is required to fulfill the customer's order as provided in the customer service request; and

verifying that the service request is submitted by a legitimate member of the service group and that the one or more matching providers is a legitimate member of the service group.

41. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method according to claim 40, further comprising the steps of:
selecting one of said one or more matching providers by a submitter of the service request;
forwarding information contained in the service request to the selected one of the matching providers;
performing the requested service by the selected one of the matching providers; and
recording said performance and associated fees on the server.

42. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method according to claim 41, further comprising the steps of:
accumulating records for ongoing performances of requested services and their associated fees; and
periodically distributing to each of the plurality of members of the service group the accumulated records of performed services and associated fees that pertain to services that said each member either requested or performed.

43. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method according to claim 40 wherein said provided services pertain to digitally stored images.

44. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method according to claim 40 wherein said capability data includes a service provider's location.

45. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method according to claim 44 wherein said at least one other criterion includes a location of the requestor member.

46. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method according to claim 40 wherein said capability data includes one or more of the following:

- Brand;
- Cost of service;
- Specific Product characteristics;
- Delivery time;
- Delivery method;
- Delivery reach;
- Specific provider characteristics;
- Work Flow Capacity;
- Access time; and
- Ability to ship to a specific location.

47. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method according to claim 40 wherein the step of registering includes the step of submitting a business name and address to the network service by a service provider.

48. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method according to claim 40 wherein the step of allowing each requestor member to request services includes the step of submitting an electronic message from a requestor member over the network service to the server via a network connected communication device.

49. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method according to claim 48 wherein the step of identifying one or more matching providers includes the step of returning another electronic communication from the server to the requestor member containing a list of said one or more matching providers.

50. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method according to claim 49 wherein said list of said one or more matching providers is arranged to more prominently list a provider who has paid an additional fee to the network service.

51. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method according to claim 48 wherein the network connected communication device is a device selected from the group consisting of a personal computer, a cell phone, a kiosk, a camera, a minilab, and a PDA.

52. ***(Currently Amended)*** The method according to claim 40 wherein the submitted screening criteria from the requestor member including the requested service and the at least one other criterion is obtained from a customer service request submitted to the network service by the ~~a~~ non-member customer.

53. ***(Currently Amended)*** The method according to claim 52 wherein the customer service request returned a list of one or more matching providers from the server, which list ~~that~~ included the requestor member, which requestor member was selected by the non-member customer in the purchase order, and which requestor member received forwarded information from the customer service request, which customer service request included the requested service outside of the submitting requestor's area of expertise.

54. ***(Currently Amended)*** A method comprising the steps of:
providing a digital image network service over a network;
 permitting potential customers, using a communication device coupled to the network, to access a network server via the network service;
 registering a plurality of service providers in a database of the server who are members of the network service, the registering step including storing service provider information for identifying each of the plurality of service providers, for describing each of their services including service fees, and for listing related service provider criteria;
 allowing a potential customer to request services for a fee from the plurality of registered service provider members by sending to the network service a service request via a communication device, the service request including a desired service and at least one screening criterion;
 comparing a received service request with the service provider information stored on the server;

identifying one or more matching members of the plurality of registered service provider members whose services, fees, and service provider criteria most closely match the desired service and the at least one screening criterion included in the received service request;

verifying that the one or more matching members are current legitimate members in good standing of the network service; ~~and~~

sending information for the one or more matching members to the potential customer's communication device for enabling the potential customer to select at least one of the matching members preferred by the potential customer to provide the desired service;

sending a second service request by a selected one of said at least one of the matching members preferred by the potential customer for a desired service that the selected one of said at least one of the matching members cannot perform alone and which requires an additional service provided by another service provider in collaboration with said selected one of said at least one of the matching members, wherein said selected one of said at least one of the matching members and said another service provider collaborate to provide the desired service for the potential customer; and

recording services performed by said selected one of said at least one of the matching members in response to the service request sent by the potential customer and services performed by said another service provider in response to the second service request sent by the selected one of said at least one of the matching members, and related fees owed, on the server.

55. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method according to claim 54, further comprising the steps of:

selecting the at least one of the matching members preferred by the potential customer;

sending a purchase request to the selected at least one of the matching members;

performing the desired service by the selected at least one of the matching members; and

recording said performance and associated fees on the server.

56. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method according to claim 55, further comprising the steps of:

accumulating records for ongoing performances of desired services and their fees; and

periodically distributing to each of the plurality of service providers who are members of the network service their accumulated records of performed services and fees that pertain to the desired services that said each member performed.

57. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method according to claim 54, wherein the desired service is selected from the group consisting of:

digital image enlargement;
printing images on mugs;
printing images on clothing;
digital image printing; and
framing for digital image prints.

58. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method according to claim 54 wherein said service provider criteria includes a service provider's location.

59. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method according to claim 58 wherein said at least one screening criterion includes a location of the potential customer.

60. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method according to claim 54 wherein said related service provider criteria includes one or more of the following:

Brand;
Cost of service;
Specific Product characteristics;
Delivery time;
Delivery method;
Delivery reach;

Specific provider characteristics;
Work Flow Capacity;
Access time; and
Ability to ship to a specific location.

61. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method according to claim 54 wherein the step of registering includes the step of submitting a business name and address to the network service by a service provider.

62. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method according to claim 54 wherein the step of allowing each potential customer to request services includes the step of sending an electronic message over the network service to the server.

63. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method according to claim 62 wherein the step of sending information for the one or more matching members includes the step of returning another electronic message from the server to the potential customer containing a list of said one or more matching members.

64. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method according to claim 63 wherein said list of said one or more matching members is arranged to more prominently list a service provider who has paid an additional fee to the network service.

65. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method according to claim 54 wherein the communication device is a device selected from the group consisting of a personal computer, a cell phone, a kiosk, a camera, a minilab, a photo ramp, a picture frame, and a PDA.

66. ***(Canceled)***

67. *(Currently Amended)* A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform the method steps of:

providing a digital image network service over a network;

permitting potential customers, using a communication device coupled to the network, to access a network server via the network service;

registering a plurality of service providers in a database of the server who are members of the network service, the registering step including storing service provider information for identifying each of the plurality of service providers, for describing each of their services including service fees for potential retail purchasers and separate lower fees for potential wholesale purchasers, and for listing related service provider criteria;

allowing a potential wholesale or retail customer to request services for said retail or wholesale fees ~~a fee~~ from the plurality of registered service provider members by sending to the network service a service request via a communication device, the service request including a desired service and at least one screening criterion;

comparing a received service request with the service provider information stored on the server;

identifying one or more matching members of the plurality of registered service provider members whose services, fees, and service provider criteria most closely match the desired service and the at least one screening criterion included in the received service request;

verifying that the one or more matching members are current credit worthy members of the network service; and

sending information for the one or more matching members to the potential customer's communication device for enabling the potential customer to select at least one of the matching members preferred by the potential customer to provide the desired service.